

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

5. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that said composite material comprises hydroxyapatite and/or other apatite in a concentration of 5-80 vol%, preferably 10-50 vol% and even more preferred 25-45 vol%.

6. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that said closing of the system and applying of pressure takes place at temperatures below 900°C, for ceramic based composites preferably below 800°C, even more preferred below 700°, and for more metal based composites preferably below 500°C.

7. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that said densification of the material is driven to an end temperature above 900°C, preferably above 1000°C and even more preferred above 1100°C, for ceramic based composites, or 500-800°C, preferably 600-800°C for metal based composites, and an end pressure above 100 Mpa, preferably up to 200 Mpa.

8. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that said applying of pressure is performed as a partial applying of pressure, before an end temperature for the densification is reached, and before commencing decomposition of apatite phase, whereby a part of pressure of 0.2-10 Mpa is applied.

9. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that said densification of the material is performed stepwise, whereby a first part pressure is applied, preferably of about 0.2-5 Mpa, and is maintained up to a first temperature, whereafter a second part pressure is applied, preferably of about 1-10 Mpa, and is maintained up to a second temperature, whereafter a possible further is applied, or an end pressure and an end temperature is applied.

10. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that one or more helping agents are added to a barrier layer at densification by hot isostatic pressing or to a powder bed at densification by over pressure sintering, in order to further suppress unwanted reactions, like decomposition and oxidation.

12. (Amended) Bioactive composite material, comprising apatite, for dental or orthopaedic use, which comprises groups with a tendency for decomposition (e.g. vaporization), characterized in that it has been produced by to a method according to claim 1.